

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
HA-05 SY-05 MCT-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
/073 W

-----126748 221656Z /45

O R 221550Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3849
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
/AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 5158

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 9763

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT MOTHERS GROUP DISAPPEARANCES : "MONTONERO" DOCUMENT
BECOMING INOPERATIVE

REF: BUENOS AIRES 9715

1. WE SEE EVIDENCE THAT THE "MONTONERO PLOY"
DESCRIBED REFTEL IS TO BE TREATED NOW BY GOA AS AN
"INOPERATIVE" EXPLANATION OF THE FRENCH NUNS'
DISAPPEARANCE.

2. WE HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT ON TUESDAY (12/20) THE
PAPAL NUNCIO RECEIVED A FORMAL REPLY FROM THE
PRESIDENTS OFFICE TO THE NUNCIO'S EARLIER INQUIRY
REGARDING THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE MISSING NUNS. THE
HAND DELIVERED RESPONSE (WE WERE NOT TOLD WHO SIGNED
) , REITERATED THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERN REGARDING
THE NUNS DISAPPEARANCE AND PROMISED THAT EFFORTS
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WERE UNDER WAY TO LOCATE THEM. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF
MONTONERO INVOLVEMENT, THOUGH THE LETTER WAS DELIVERED THREE
DAYS AFTER THE FIRST CORPS COMMUNIQUE.

3. THE PAPAL NUNCIO, MSGR. PIO LAGHI, CALLED ON TUESDAY
AFTERNOON ON FOREIGN MINISTER MONTES. THE NUNCIO, REPORTEDLY,
GEGAN HIS CONVERSATION BY STRONGLY QUESTIONING THE AUTHENTICITY

OF THE "MONTONERO" LETTER WHICH MONTES DID NOT REBUT. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING THE NUNCIO STATED THAT HE COULD NOT SEND A REPORT TO ROME, ASSERTING THAT THE MONTONEROS WERE HOLDING THE NUNS FOR RANSOM, BASED ON NEWS STORIES; HE HAD TO RECEIVE AN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION REGARDING THAT EVEN FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ADMIRAL MONTES DID NOT AFFIRM HIS INTENTION TO SEND A NOTE.

4. WEDNESDAY'S (12/21) ARMY CONTROLLED DAILY LA OPINION FRONT PAGED A STORY THAT MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR HARGUINDEGUY HAD TOLD THE VISITING REPRESENTATIVE (A MR GADOT) OF MR EDGARD FAURE, PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH HOUSE OF DEPUTIES, THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT THE KIDNAPPING OF THE FRENCH NUNS WOULD HAV A "HAPPY ENDING." AGAIN A HIGH OFFICIAL SEEMS TO HAVE DENIED HIMSELF AN OPPORTUNITY TO CITE MONTONERO INVOLVEMENT.

5. OTHER EMBASSY CONTACTS -- INCLUDING ESPECHE GIL AT THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MINISTRY'S NORTH AMERICAN DESK AND RICARDO YOFRE, SENIOR CIVILIAN AT THE PRESIDENCY, HAVE SIMPLY CLAMMED UP WHEN WE RAISED THE RECENT ABDUCTIONS, RATHER THAN TAKING GOA OFF THE HOOK BY REPEATING THE FIRST GORPS' ALLEGATION.

6. MEANWHILE THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN POINTING OUT A DISCREPANCY BETWEEN KIDNAPPED SISTER ALICIA'S LETTER AND THE MONONERO'S DOCUMENT, BOTH OF WHICH WERE DELIVERED TO AGENCE FRANCE PRESS ON DECEMBER 17. SISTER ALICIA'S
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LETTER STATES THAT SHE IS BEING HELD BY A DISSIDENT GROUP OF THE GOVERNMENT -- "UNGRUPE DISCIDENT AU GOUVERNEMENT ACTUEL". EMBASSY OFFICIALS POINT OUT THAT THIS IS NOT A DEFINITION THAT WOULD PRECISELY FIT THE MONTONEROS. IN ADDITION, THE SYNTAX OF THE FRENCH AND THE SUBSEQUENT USE OF THE WORD "AQUI" ALONGSIDE THE FRENCH WORD "ICI" INDICATE TO FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT THE SISTER TRANSLATED THE LETTER INTO FRENCH FROM A SPANISH ORIGINAL.

7. COMMENT: WE ARE ENCOURAGED THAT THE CONSIDERED REACTION HERE BY THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN TO IGNORE THE "MONTONERO LETTER. IF BY TACIT UNDERSTANDING THE MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUE TO REGARD THE MONTONERO LETTER AS "INOPERATIVE", IT WILL ENHANCE THE CHANCES OF LOCATING AND RELEASING OF THE DISAPPEARED NUNS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE MOTHER'S OF THE PLAZA DE MAYO.
CASTRO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, MISSING PERSONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUENOS09763
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770478-0088
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771228/aaaaawxl.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 151d49fe-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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SAS ID: 149350
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOTHERS GROUP DISAPPEARANCES : "MONTONERO" DOCUMENT BECOMING INOPERATIVE
TAGS: SHUM, AR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/151d49fe-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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